

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



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TM

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU

MARTIAL ARTS
VS.
MAN-THING
--AND ONE MUST FALL!



Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**™

RETREAT

GUESTING...
THE
MACABRE
**MAN-
THING**

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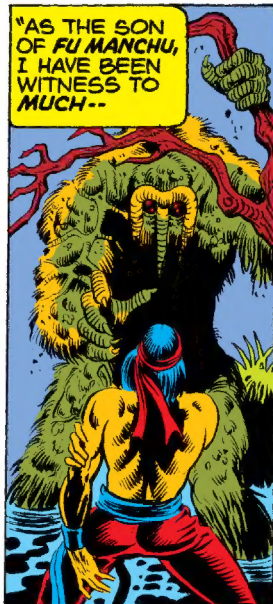


FEATURING CHARACTERS
CREATED BY SAX ROHMER

"WHAT MANNER OF MONSTER *IS* THIS, WHICH MOVES SO SUDDENLY IN MY PATH?



"AS THE SON OF *FU MANCHU*, I HAVE BEEN WITNESS TO MUCH--



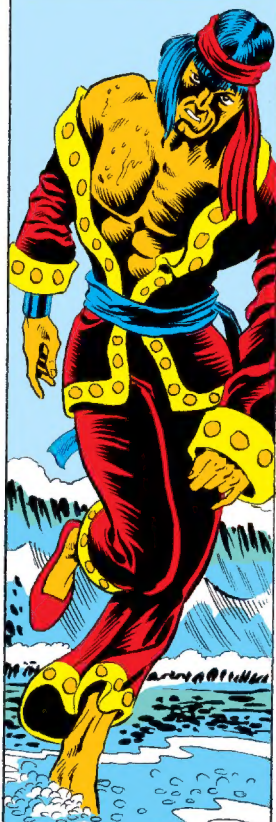
"--BUT NEVER ANYTHING THE LIKE OF THIS.



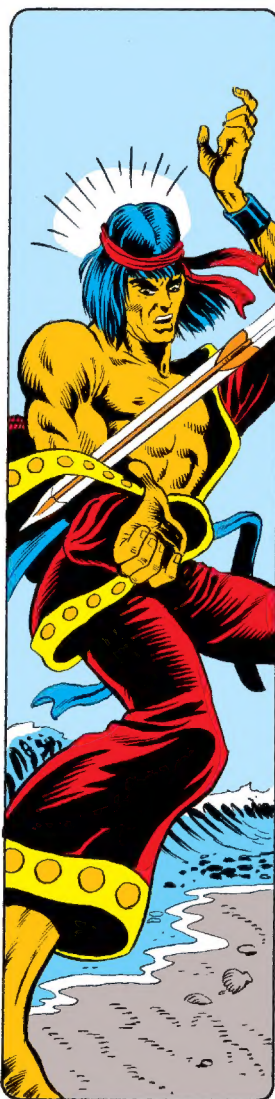
"WHAT CAN BE THIS CREATURE'S *ROLE*--



"-- IN THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS WHICH HAS NOW OCCUPIED TWELVE HOURS OF MY LIFE.



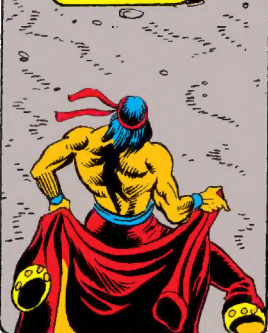
"... WHICH *BEGAN*, WITH PERFECT SYMMETRY BENEATH THE FLORIDA *SUN*.



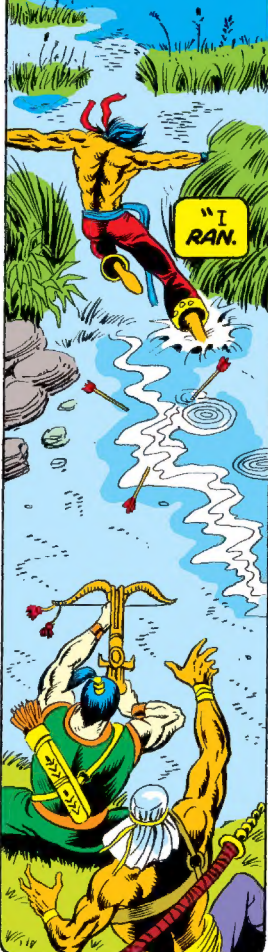
"I HAD SWUM A *GREAT* DISTANCE ALONG THE FLORIDA COAST, TO ESCAPE THE *VENGEANCE* OF *FU MANCHU*--



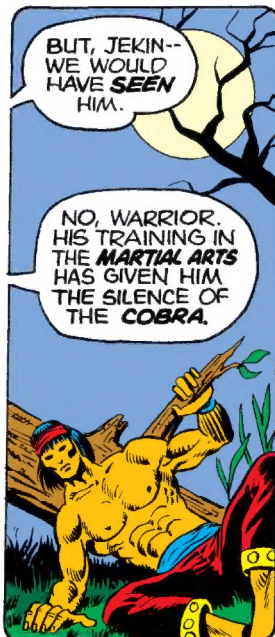
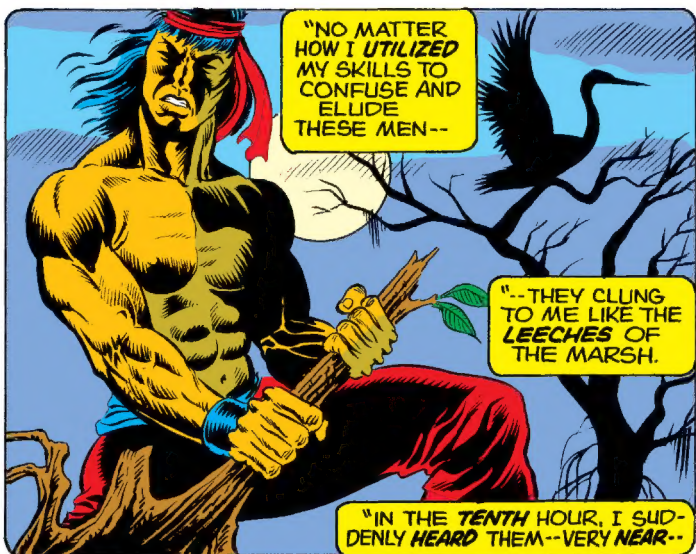
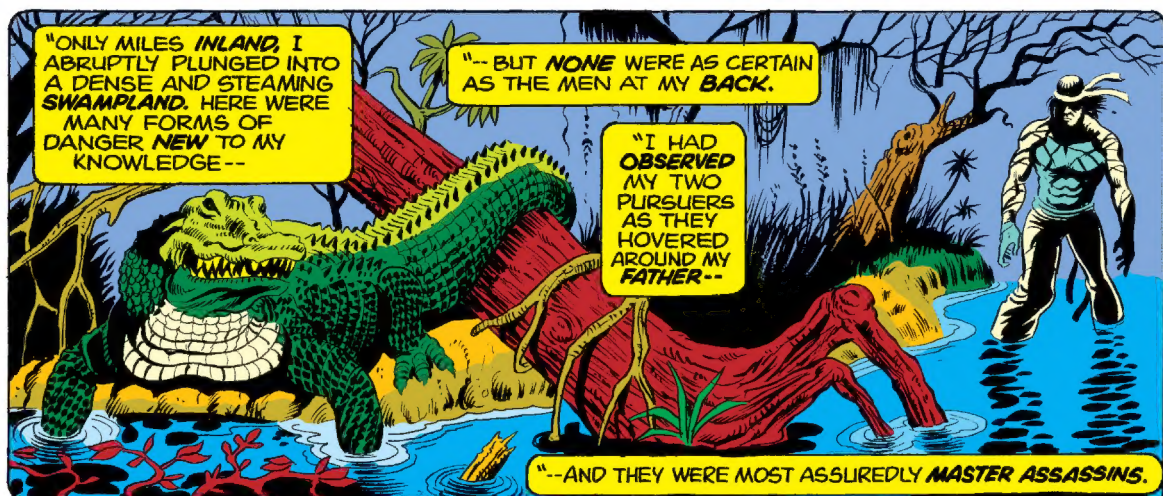
"-- BUT I HAD NOT SWUM FAR ENOUGH.

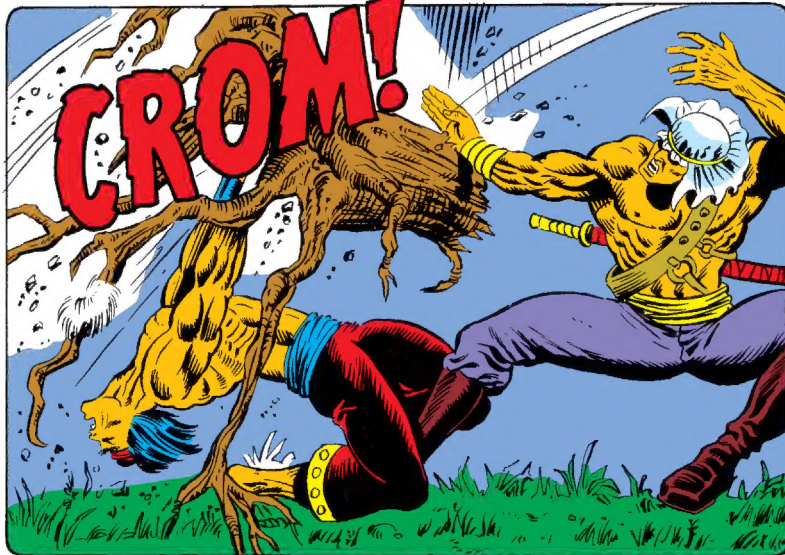
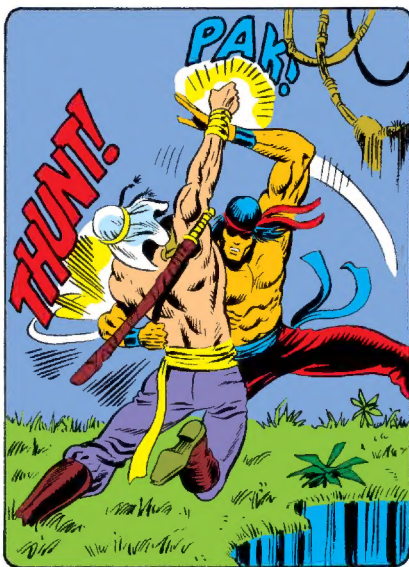
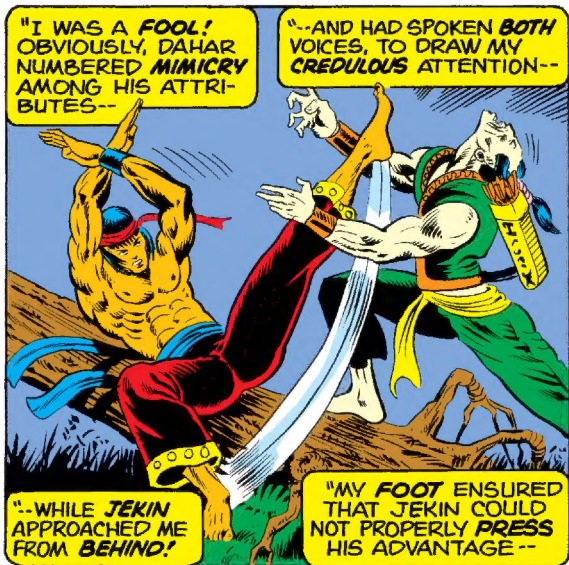


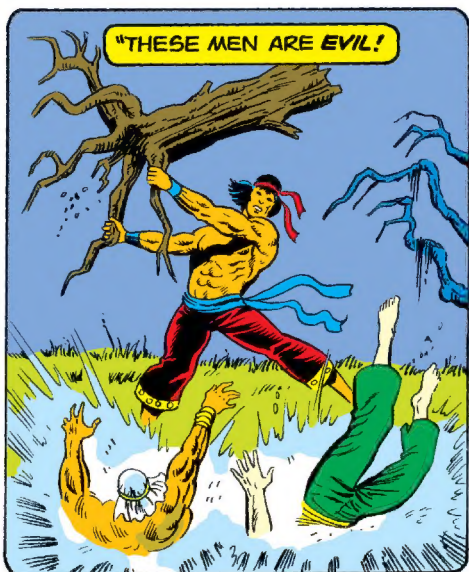
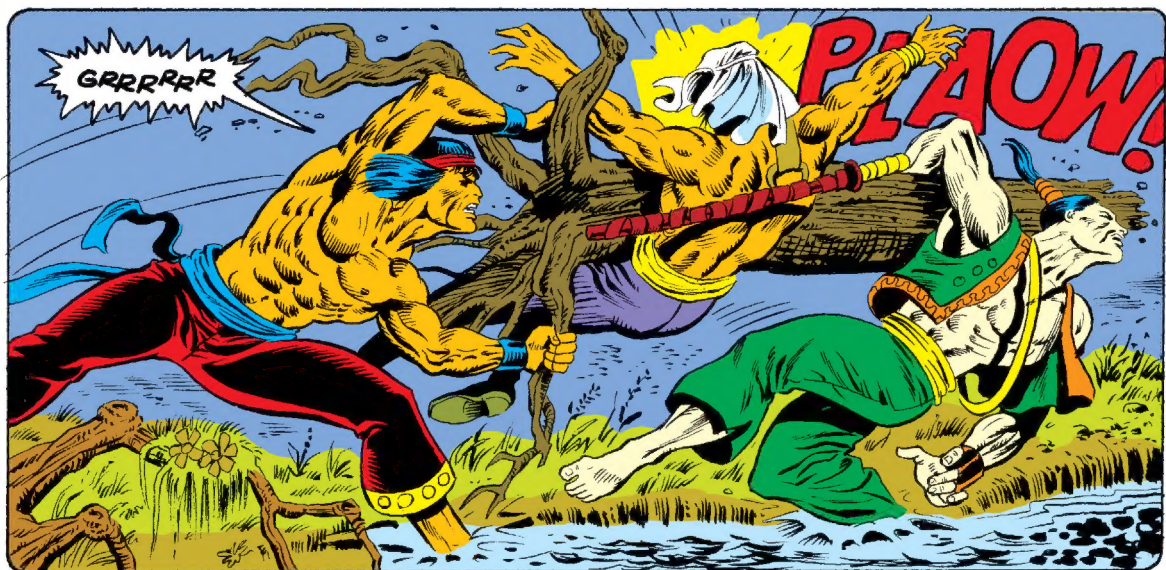
"I WAS *WEARY*, AND THEY WERE *ARMED*.



"I *RAN*.









"I STRIKE THE MONSTER!"



"THE MONSTER! THE SNAKE TRANSFORMED ITSELF INTO THE MONSTER!"



"THAT **CANNOT** BE!"

"YET I AM HELD BY THE MUCUS-BROWN SLIME OF THE THING!"



"I KNOW I AM! I KNOW I FEEL THIS!"

"THEN MY MIND HAS STRAYED--"

"--FIRST INTO MEMORY, THEN INTO DELUSION."



"ONLY THIS MONSTER--"

"--IS REAL."



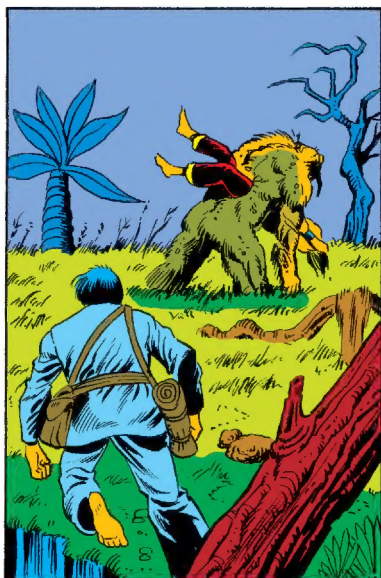
"AND I MUST ESCAPE IT!"

"I HAVE ESCAPED MY PURSUERS--"

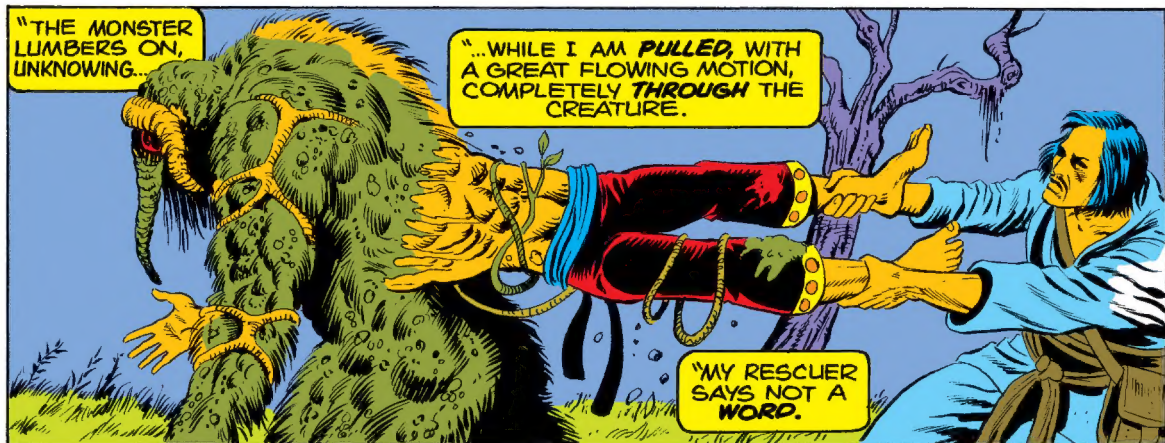


"--BUT I HAVE NOT ESCAPED MY OTHER HINDRANCE: THE MIMOSA DRUG TO WHICH I SUCCUMBED WHILE IN CONTENTION WITH MY FATHER. MY FLIGHT HAS PRECLUDED THE RESTORATION PERIOD I HAVE NEEDED--"

"--AND I-- CANNOT... MAINTAIN--"



"HANDS GRASP MY ANKLES!"



"THE MONSTER LUMBERS ON, UNKNOWING..."

"...WHILE I AM **PULLED**, WITH A GREAT FLOWING MOTION, COMPLETELY **THROUGH** THE CREATURE."

"MY RESCUER SAYS NOT A **WORD**."



PLEASE. I NEED **HELP**."



"BUT HE RUNS **PAST** ME! WHAT MANNER OF MAN REFUSES **ANOTHER** MAN'S PLEA FOR AID?"

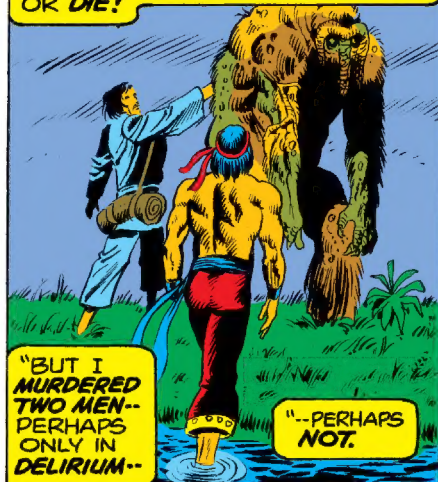
"YET-- I AM TOO **HASTY**."



"HE SEES TO THE **CREATURE'S** WELFARE BEFORE MINE."

"THE CREATURE SEEMS **UNCHANGED** BY-- PERHAPS EVEN **UNAWARE** OF-- MY DELIRIOUS ATTACK UPON IT. **GOOD**."

"I-- HAVE NEVER RATIONALLY WANTED ANYTHING TO BECOME INJURED-- OR DIE!"



"BUT I MURDERED TWO MEN-- PERHAPS ONLY IN DELIRIUM--"

"--PERHAPS NOT."

I AM CALLED **LU SUN**.

I SAW YOU WERE IN NO DANGER AFTER BEING FREED, SO I LOOKED TO THE MORE **UNUSUAL** BEING.



I AM CALLED **SHANG-CHI**. I AM IN NEED OF **REST**, TO DRIVE A **POISON** FROM MY BODY.

PERHAPS I MAY AID YOU **FURTHER**.

I HAVE **MIS-JUDGED** YOU, BUT I AM **GRATEFUL** FOR YOUR AID.



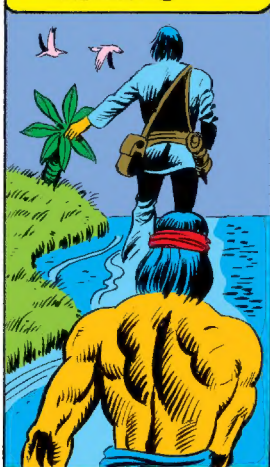
"HE TURNS EASILY, AND TREADS **UNHESITATINGLY** AWAY. I MUST FOLLOW."

"MY MIND IS MORE **COHERENT** NOW. THE **RED-INDIGO** WAVE OF **DELIRIUM** IS **ROLLING BACK**, ITS **CONFUSION**, **FORTUNATELY**, ONLY **MOMENTARY**."

"I CAME UPON THE CREATURE AFTER MY HOURS OF **FLIGHT**, **DEBILITATED** BY THE **DRUG**, AND PERCEIVED IT A **MONSTER**."



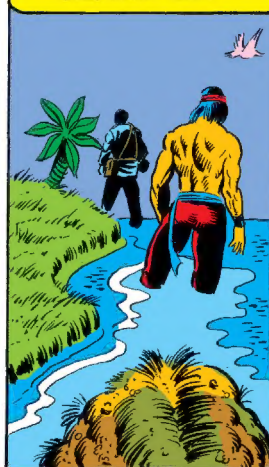
"AS IT **REACHED** FOR ME, MY **ILLNESS** **DIVERTED** MY THOUGHTS--"



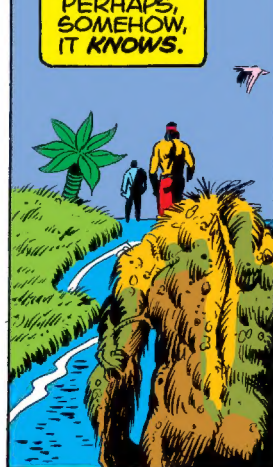
"--FOR A **FEW SECONDS** AT **MOST**. **NEVERTHELESS**, IT IS AN **UNSETTLING** EXPERIENCE."



"AH -- I HEAR THE CREATURE BEGIN TO **SPLASH** ALONG **BEHIND** US."



"I DID NOT **WISH** TO **ATTACK** IT. **PERHAPS**, **SOMEHOW**, IT **KNOWS**."



"AFTER A LENGTH OF TIME, WE REACH A GLADE.



REST.

UPON THIS SMALL ISLAND, YOU MAY SIT--

--AND HIDE FROM THE TWO MEN WHO YET HUNT YOU.



I WATCHED FROM A DISTANCE AS THEY CLIMBED FROM THE BOG INTO WHICH YOU HURLED THEM. THEIR INJURIES WERE SLIGHT.

LU SUN... HOW IS IT THAT A MAN-- WITH MANY YEARS OF LIVING-- MAY DESIRE THE DEATH OF HIS SON?



HOW COULD HE LIE TO AN INNOCENT AND CALL IT TRUTH?



HONORABLE FATHER, ONE OF THE OTHER STUDENTS HAS SAID TO ME THAT YOU WORK NOT TO BENEFIT THE WORLD... BUT TO RULE IT.

A VICIOUS SLANDER, SHANG-CHI. YOU MAY BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THIS FANCY CONTAINS NOT A GRAIN OF TRUTH.

WHICH STUDENT COULD IMAGINE SUCH A THING?

IT IS HIS WAY. HE LIVES IN DREAMS. I MUST LEARN.

K'UEI MENG. HE OFTEN INVENTS TALES.

I THANK YOU, FATHER, FOR SPEAKING WITH ME!

"K'UEI MENG **NEVER** RETURNED TO MY CLASSES.

"BUT I **NEVER** SUSPECTED MY FATHER OF **VILLAINY**. I NEVER **THOUGHT** TO SUSPECT HIM.

SHANG-CHI...



...A MAN WHO IS NOT AT PEACE **WITHIN HIMSELF** WILL NOT BE AT PEACE WITH **ANYTHING ELSE**.



YET MY FATHER **SEEMS** AT PEACE WITH HIS EVIL.

I SPEAK **NOT** OF YOUR **FATHER**, SHANG-CHI.



LU SUN, I DO NOT BELIEVE I **MAY** KNOW PEACE.

I HAVE **SWORN** TO END MY FATHER'S EMPIRE OF TERROR.



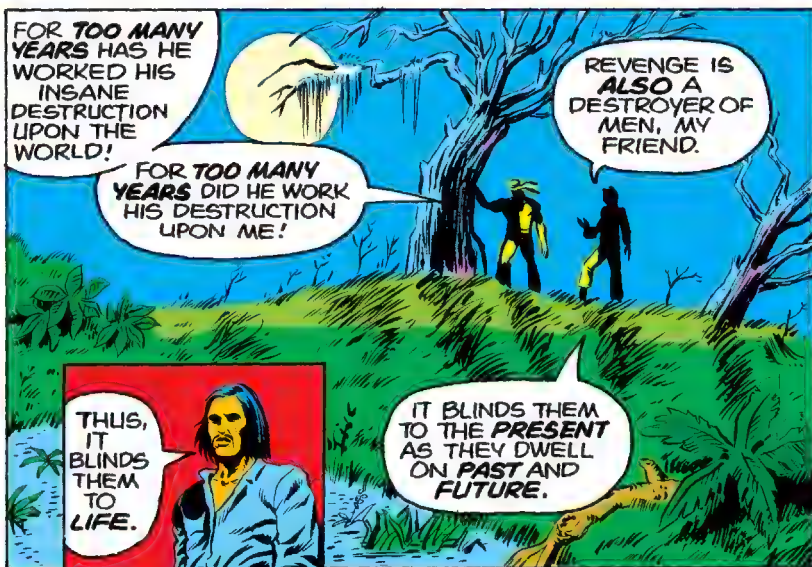
FOR **TOO MANY YEARS** HAS HE WORKED HIS **INSANE** DESTRUCTION UPON THE WORLD!

FOR **TOO MANY YEARS** DID HE WORK HIS DESTRUCTION UPON ME!

REVENGE IS **ALSO** A DESTROYER OF MEN, MY FRIEND.

IT BLINDS THEM TO THE **PRESENT** AS THEY DWELL ON **PAST** AND **FUTURE**.

THUS, IT BLINDS THEM TO **LIFE**.



BUT-- IF I CAN COMBAT AN EVIL, I MUST **DO SO**.

I CANNOT STAND **ALOOF**.

CAN A **MAN** DESTROY EVIL?



...NO.



...NO.



ONE MAN MAY OVERCOME ANOTHER-- ONE **ARMY** MAY OVERCOME ANOTHER-- BUT THE **WORLD** IS NOT CHANGED.

MEN WILL **ALWAYS** CONTEND.



AT THIS
MOMENT,
IN ANOTHER
PART OF
THE EVER-
GLADES...

...A SLITHERING FILE OF DRONING
LORRIES RUNS FURTIVELY BEFORE
THE PALE SWAMP MOON.

WITHIN THE LEAD VAN
SITS A TALL MAN, HIS
SHADOW-FLECKED FACE
IMMOBILE, EVEN TO THE
GLAZED GREEN EYES
GLOWING UNMISTAKABLY
IN THE GLOOM.

IT IS THE
DEVIL DOCTOR,
FU MANCHU.

HIS LORRIES WERE
TO HAVE BEEN FILLED
WITH MIMOSA-TAINTED GAS-
OLINE, BUT FU MANCHU'S
SON DETERMINED
OTHERWISE. NOW
THEY ROLL EMPTY
DOWN DESERTED
BACK TRAILS--

--OR, PERHAPS...
NOT SO DESERTED.

NOW,
YOU
MEN!

STRIKE
NOW!

NAYLAND SMITH'S
CRY PRE-
CIPITATES
A HORDE
OF
NIGHT-
DARK
FIGURES
INTO THE
PALE
OCHER
LAMP-
LIGHT--

--THEIR INTRICATE
WEAPONRY COCKED
AND READY IN
THEIR ROCK-
STEADY FISTS,
AND THEIR
STATE AND
FEDERAL
BADGES
AT HAND!

THE MASTER OF THE SI-FAN'S
MEN GIVE THEIR REPLY!

KAPOW! KAPOW!
KRAK!
KRAK!
KRAK!

SUDDENLY, FRAMED IN A
STITCHWORK OF SCREAM-
ING DEATH--

--BLACK JACK TARR
COMES RACING TOWARD
THE LEAD VAN!

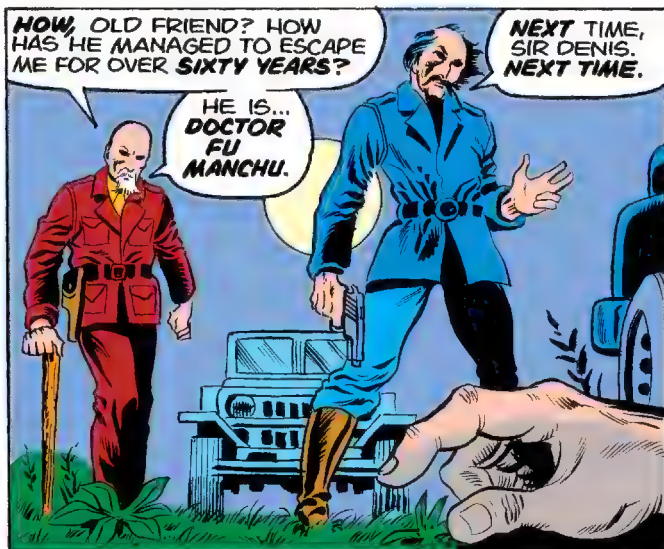
NAVLAND SMITH'S
AIDE-DE-CAMP
USUALLY PRE-
FERS THE
DIRECT ROUTE!

COME
QUIETLY,
DOCTOR,
OR I'LL--

HE'S
GONE!

--VANISHED-- FROM AN
ENCLOSED TRUCK THAT WAS
ALWAYS IN FULL VIEW!

HOW
COULD
THE
FIEND
HAVE
MANAGED
IT?

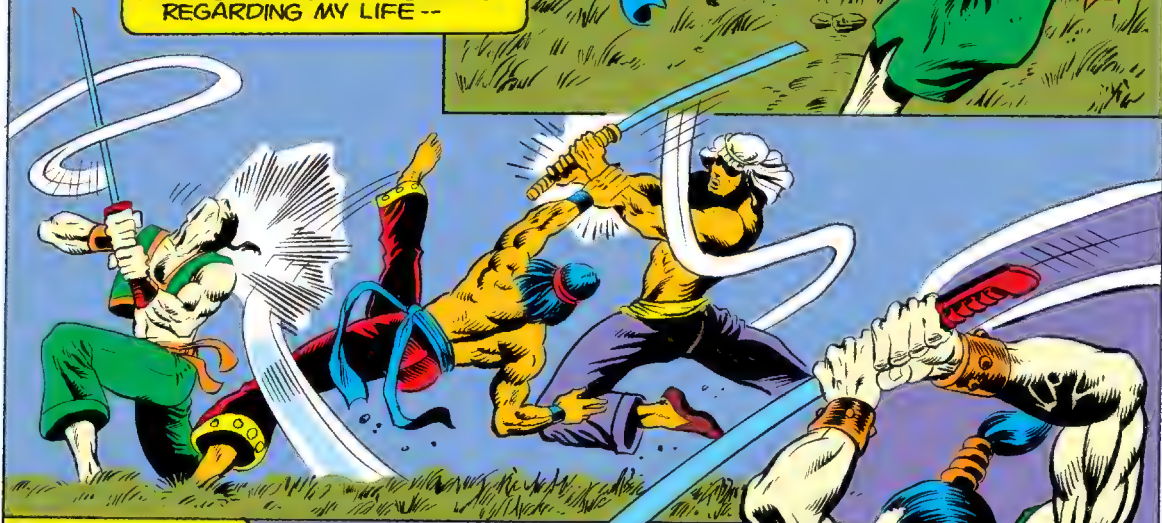


...WHO WILL NEVER GREET **OLD AGE**.



"THE WORDS OF LU SUN HAVE BEEN **FEW**, YET CHARGED WITH **QUIET INSIGHT**. HE IS THE **FIRST PERSON** WITH WHOM I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO **SPEAK** REGARDING MY LIFE--

"OBVIOUSLY, THEIR **ATTACK** OCCURS NEXT, AND I **TWIST FISH-LIKE** TO AVOID THEIR **PRECISION**."



"--AND THE **CON-TENTION** WITH JEKIN AND DAHAR BECOMES QUITE **DIFFERENT** FROM OUR EARLIER ENCOUNTERS."

"I AM NO **MORE** SKILLFUL, AND THEY NO **LESS**, BUT I HAVE BECOME THE **STRONGEST**."





"THEY KNOW THIS, INSTINCTIVELY, AND THEIR ACTIONS NOW ACQUIRE THE SHRILL EDGE OF FRENZY. I AM EVER MORE FLUID--"



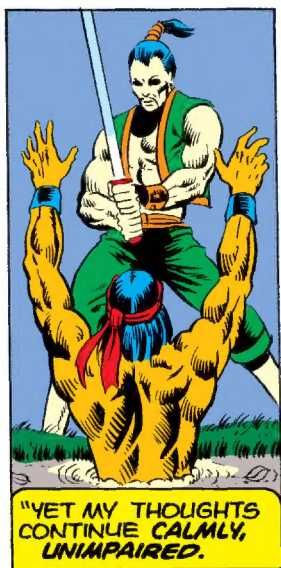
"--BUT EVEN AT THAT, I CANNOT KNOW OF HIDDEN--"

"--QUICKSAND!"

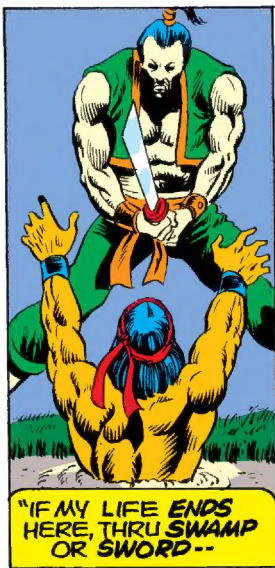


"MY FOOT HOLDS ME, MUCH AS DID THE SWAMP-CREATURE IN MY MADNESS--"

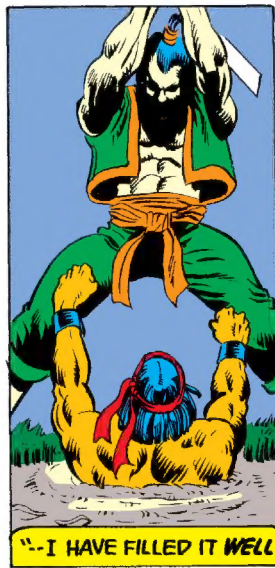
"--AND NOW, ALL SUPPORT GIVES WAY, PLUNGING ME TO MY HIPS IN THE CHURNING, CLINGING POOL."



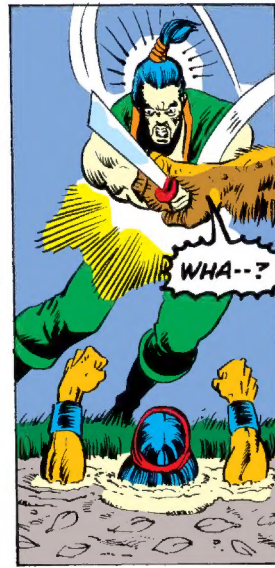
"YET MY THOUGHTS CONTINUE CALMLY, UNIMPAIRED."



"IF MY LIFE ENDS HERE, THRU SWAMP OR SWORD--"



"--I HAVE FILLED IT WELL."

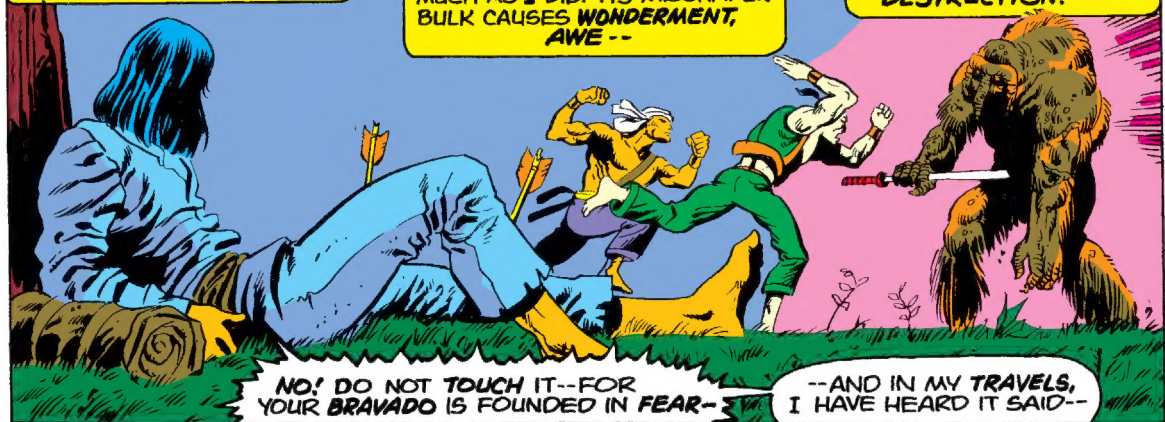


"WHA--?"

"IT IS THE SWAMP-CREATURE, COME SHUFFLING FROM THE STEAMING DARKNESS, FOR REASONS I MAY NEVER UNDERSTAND."

"MY TWO OPPONENTS TURN AS ONE TOWARD THE BEHEMOTH, AND RESPOND TO THEIR FIRST SIGHT OF IT MUCH AS I DID. ITS MISSHAPEN BULK CAUSES WONDERMENT, AWE --"

"--AND IN THESE HUNTERS, MINDS ALREADY FIRED WITH THE BLOOD-LUST, IT AROUSES A NEED FOR DESTRUCTION."



"NO! DO NOT TOUCH IT--FOR YOUR BRAVADO IS FOUNDED IN FEAR--"

"--AND IN MY TRAVELS, I HAVE HEARD IT SAID--"



WHOEVER KNOWS FEAR-- BURNS AT THE MAN-THING'S TOUCH!

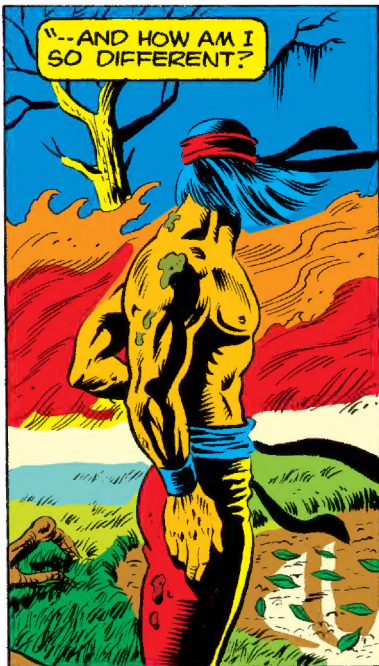
"THE MAN-THING. SO THE CREATURE HAS A RECOGNIZED IDENTITY IN THE WORLD."

"THE MAN-THING: A MINDLESS MOCKERY OF A MAN--"



"--WREAKING HAVOC WITHOUT THOUGHT--"

"--AND HOW AM I SO DIFFERENT?"



"WHEN I HAVE CONTENTED AGAINST MY FATHER AND HIS ACOLYTES, I HAVE USED ONLY NECESSARY FORCE -- I HAVE NOT ABUSED MY SKILLS THROUGH THE USE OF VIOLENCE --"



"--BUT HAVE I NOT ABUSED THEM THROUGH USING THEM AT ALL?"

LU SUN...
WOULD YOU
CONTEND
AGAINST
FU MANCHU?



WOULD YOU,
SHANG-CHI?



"I HEAR THE BIRDS SINGING. DAWN HAS ARRIVED."

NEXT ISSUE: **WEAPON** OF THE **SOUL**

Shadowcat

